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Message Text

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50
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 IGA-02 ABF-01 L-03 EB-11 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /113 W
---------- 075373
R 190845Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880
INFO CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR/ECJ7

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3783

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS TS
SUBJECT: A4 AIRCRAFT FOR TUNISIA

1. SUMMARY: INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOT RECONSIDERING PURCHASE OF A4B/C AIRCRAFT. CHIEF OF STAFF, TUNISIAN AIR FORCE (C/S, TAF) HAS INTIMATED HE WOULD PREFER A NEWER AIRCRAFT, POSSIBLY A4M. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (MOD) AND THE SECRETARY STATE TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, REINFORCE BELIEF C/S TAF IS GETTING HIS POINT ACROSS. THUS IT APPEARS THAT PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. TO INSPECT, SELECT AND PURCHASE A4B/C AIRCRAFT (CNO N04900 DTG 252020Z APR 74) IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETINGS WITH CHUSLOT, THE C/S TAF COL MACHTA RECENTLY INDICATED HE FELT THE PURCHASE OF A NEWER AIRCRAFT THAN THE A4B/C WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL FOR THE TAF IN THE LONG RUN. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, TAF BEGAN DRAG FEET ON NAMING OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR PROPOSED TRIP TO USA TO SELECT A4B/C AIRCRAFT. EXPLANATION GIVEN US WAS THAT TAF WANTED TO WAIT FOR RETURN OF AHMED BENNOUR, SEC STATE IN MOD, FROM HIS VISIT TO USA BEFORE GOING AHEAD. BENNOUR HAS SINCE INDICATED TO RADM GERHARD, DIRECTOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, CNO, THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN A4M AND WE HAVE HEARD NO MORE ABOUT PROPOSED VISIT IN CONNECTION WITH A4B/C'S. EARLIER HINT THAT GOT MAY BE THINKING OF SOMETHING NEWER CAME FROM MINDEF
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KHAFACHA WHO DURING DISCUSSIONS ON FY 74 FMS CREDIT TERMS SAID

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THAT AMOUNT OF CREDIT OFFER WAS HARDLY SUFFICIENT TO PURCHASE
EVEN ONE MODERN AIRCRAFT (TUNIS 3213).

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT VISIT
TO USA TO SELECT A4B/C AIRCRAFT WILL NOT COME OFF, OR AT
LEAST NOT UNTIL TUNISIANS HAVE EXPLORED FURTHER THEIR THOUGHTS
ABOUT PURCHASE OF NEWER AIRCRAFT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, JET AIRCRAFT, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS03783
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Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D740159-1023
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A4 AIRCRAFT FOR TUNISIA
TAGS: MASS, TS, (MACHTA), (BENNOUR, AHMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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